

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

B2

1. (currently amended) A three piece wheel (1) for motor vehicles, comprising an outer rim (2) provided with a first annular surface (14) and with second holes (6) in proximity with ~~its own~~ a periphery of said outer rim, an inner rim (3) provided with a second surface and with a groove (9) with a wall (10), the outer (2) and inner (3) rims forming a support for a tire ~~tyre~~; a disc (4) provided with a third annular surface (16) and with at least first holes (6) in proximity with ~~its~~ a periphery of said disc, the disc (4) being partially superposed onto the outer rim (2); means (5 ; 18, 9) for connecting the disc (4), the outer rim (2) and the inner rim (3), the connecting means (5; 18,19) being provided with an axis (8) and passing through the first (6) and the second holes (7) of the disc (4) and of the outer rim (2), the first annular surface (14) of the outer rim (2) being compressed between the second surface (15) of the inner rim and the third annular surface (16) of the disc (4); ~~the wheel (1) being characterised wherein that the~~ said connecting means (5; 18,19) are inserted in the thickness of the wall (10) of the groove (9) of the inner rim (3) without projecting therefrom and in that the axis (8) of the connecting means (5; 18, 19) is in proximity to or coincident with the neutral axis (12) of said wall (10) of the groove (9) of the inner rim (3).

2. (currently amended) A wheel as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the disc (4), the inner rim (3) are ~~obtained by casting cast members~~ and
wherein ~~that~~ the outer rim (2) is ~~made of~~ a stamped plate member.

3. (currently amended) A wheel as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the connecting means are coach screws in the inner rim.

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4. (currently amended) A wheel as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the connecting means are stud bolts screwed in the inner rim and comprise
fastening nuts acting on the disc.

5. (currently amended) A wheel as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the connecting means are coach screws in the inner rim.

6. (currently amended) A wheel as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the connecting means are stud bolts screwed in the inner rim and comprise
fastening nuts acting on the disc.

7. (new) A three piece wheel for a motor vehicle, said wheel comprising:

an outer rim, an inner rim, and a disc, wherein a portion of said outer rim is abutted with said inner rim and compressed between said inner rim and said disc, and wherein said outer rim is defined from a different material as compared to at least one of said inner rim and said disc;

first and second sets of through-holes defined respectively in said disc and said outer rim, said first and second sets of through-holes registered with each other;

B2
a set of threaded blind bores defined in said inner rim and registered with said first and second sets of through-bores; and,

a plurality of fasteners for connecting said outer rim, said inner rim, and said disc to each other to define a wheel, said plurality of fasteners each comprising a portion that projects through an aligned pair of through-bores of said first and second sets of through-bores and into one of said threaded blind bores of said inner rim.

8. (new) The three piece wheel as set forth in claim 7, wherein said outer rim is defined from a non-cast alloy plate material.

9. (new) The three piece wheel as set forth in claim 8, wherein at least one of said inner rim and said disc are each defined by a cast member.

10. (new) A method of constructing a wheel comprising:

locating an inner surface of an annular portion of an outer rim adjacent an annular portion of an inner rim, said inner rim defining a plurality of spaced-apart blind bores and said outer rim defining a first plurality of through-bores, wherein said outer rim and said inner rim are defined from different materials;

aligning each of said blind bores with one of said first plurality of through-bores;

placing a disc member adjacent an outer surface of said annular portion of said outer rim so that said annular portion of said outer rim is located between said disc member and said annular portion of said inner rim, said disc member defining a second plurality of through-bores;

aligning each of said second plurality of through-bores with one of said first plurality of through-bores and one of said blind bores so that each blind bore cooperates with one of said first plurality of through-bores and one of said second plurality of through-bores to define a fastener-receiving location; and,

installing a fastener into each fastener receiving location to fixedly secure said inner rim, said outer rim and said disc member together as a wheel unit, wherein said step of installing a fastener comprises mating threads of said fastener with threads defined in said blind bore.
